

REMARKS

Claims 1-28, and 32-42 are pending in the present application. Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Applicant also thanks the Examiner for the indication that claims 25 and 40 would be allowable if they are rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and intervening claims.

35 U.S.C §102(b) REJECTION

Claims 1-4, 6-20, 22-24, 26-28, 32-39 and 41-42 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Akahane (US 6539172). This rejection, insofar as it pertains to the presently pending claims, is respectfully traversed.

Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are directed to subject matter disclosed or inherently disclosed in the parent application, now US Patent US 6,336,003, with a filing date that is prior to the Akahane's 102(e) date. Therefore, Akahane should not be eligible as a prior reference in connection with the Examiner's rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

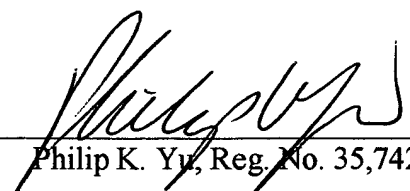
35 U.S.C. §103(a) REJECTION

Dependent claims 5 and 21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Akahane. This rejection is also traversed. For the reasons stated in the previous paragraph, Akahane should not be eligible as a prior reference in connection with the Examiner's rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance and allowance is courteously solicited. If any questions remain concerning this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Philip K. Yu at (626) 965-1202 in the Los Angeles, CA area.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the US Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class mail in an envelop addressed to Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this date: 10-15-2003

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